

So You Want to Buy a Morgan Horse?

“And here I say to parents, and especially to wealthy parents, don’t give your son money. As far as you can afford it, give him horses. No one ever came to grief - except honourable grief - through riding horses. No hour of life is lost that is spent in the saddle.”
Sir Winston Churchill



Photo © Howard Schatzberg, Inc.



Photo © Howard Schatzberg, Inc.

Morgans:

- help parents teach kids responsibility, patience and self-discipline
- make wonderful companions
- provide a hobby for a lifetime
- create opportunities for families to work and play together
- provide an opportunity to develop enduring friendships
- enhance self-esteem, confidence, and empathy
- offer exciting competitive opportunities
- provide an excellent form of exercise and recreation

Getting started: Advice for the novice

If you have little or no experience with horses, are there alternatives to buying? **YES**

If you would like to get first-hand experience with a Morgan, consider riding lessons or a partial lease before you buy. These options are less expensive than owning. As you become more familiar with horses, you will be developing the skills necessary to be a good and responsible horse owner.



Photo © Stephanie Hardy



Photo © Howard Stump



Photo © Kentucky Horse Park

Buying your first Morgan represents a significant commitment in time and money.

It will also teach you that horses:

- require a great deal of your time, approximately 1 to 2 hours daily
- call for physical labor for their daily care
- need food, water, and stall cleaning **EVERY DAY!**
- rely on you to acquire specific knowledge for proper care
- can live a very long life - sometimes up to 40 years
- are large and strong and can cause accidents without even trying
- need a lot of exercise
- can't rely on children alone for their care - the parent is ultimately responsible

You're ready to buy a Morgan. What's next?

Who will be riding the horse - adults, children, experienced rider, beginner, tall or short riders?

Research different breeds for their basic personalities and physical characteristics. Beginners need a steady horse breed that likes working with people.

What kind of activity do you want to do with your horse; are you interested in trail riding, jumping, dressage, etc.?

Whatever style of riding you prefer, it is best if your first horse is already "schooled." An older horse that already has the skills you need is usually a better buy for the first-time owner and younger rider. First-time horse owners should avoid younger animals that require a lot of training unless you want to use a professional's help.

Make a wish-list for your new Morgan!

Include price, personality, conformation, training, background and sex. After each potential horse you visit, keep a resumé listing his name, age, size, color, health history or concerns, training and price.



Photo © Bonnie Sogoloff



Photo © Green Mountain Horse Association

Ask the owner about the horse's habits.

Does it load into trailers and accept standard grooming routines? Do they interact well with other horses? Have the owner ride the horse first and see how the horse reacts. It would also be wise to ask the owner if he would agree to a trial period for you and your new horse.

Where is the best place to find Morgans for sale—stables, breeders, auctions, or advertisements?

One good place to buy a horse is the stable where you ride or plan to keep the horse. The stable owner has an interest in keeping you satisfied, and knowing your abilities and temperament helps them to suggest a suitable animal. Vets, farriers, and riding instructors are good resources. Horse publications have excellent advertisements usually showing photos and descriptions, but this may require you to travel. Local newspapers may not have the best selection, and only experts should shop at an auction. Wherever you find your perfect mount, always have it thoroughly examined by an expert who has experience in performing purchase examinations.

You and Your Morgan: a Lifetime Friendship

"Where in this wide world can a person find nobility without pride, friendship without envy or beauty without vanity? ...There is nothing so powerful, nothing less violent; there is nothing so quick, nothing more patient..."

Ronald Duncan

Morgans are loyal and willing.

The bond that develops between a caring rider and a Morgan provides a special relationship unique between humans and animals. It is more than friendship or the feelings we have toward a loyal pet; it is deeper and much more basic. Horse ownership can be one of life's true joys but only if it is entered into with an understanding of the responsibilities it encompasses.



Photo © Howard Schatzberg, Inc.



Photo © S. deVoght



Photo © Howard Slump

When considering the purchase of your first horse, it is essential to ask yourself:

- Can you afford a horse?
- Will you keep your horse at home or board it elsewhere?
- If you keep your horse at home, do you have a safe place to keep it and enough room?
- How and what will you feed your horse? It takes more than grass to keep your horse fit and healthy.
- Who will be responsible for fence repair, pasture management, manure disposal, etc.?
- Who will be responsible for daily care?
Can you find back-up help to care for your horse if you are unable or when you go away?
- Does the zoning in your area allow horses?

If you're comfortable with what you've learned here, then you may be ready to enter into a remarkable relationship with one of the most fascinating creatures on earth. As a bond develops between you and your Morgan, you will truly know the meaning of mutual trust and will be recreating a relationship that has endured through the ages.

For More Information on the Morgan horse Contact.

THE AMERICAN MORGAN HORSE ASSOCIATION

122 Bostwick Road
Shelburne, Vermont 05482

(802) 985-4944

(802) 985-8897 Fax

Or visit us on the web at:

www.morganhorse.com